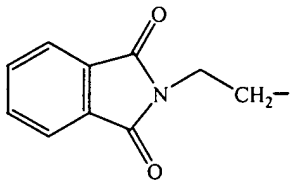
R_1, R_2 and R_3 are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, heterocycles, substituted heterocycles, heterocyclicalkyl and substituted heterocyclicalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl and substituted aryloxyalkyl; or R_5 and R_6 and the carbons to which they are bound join to form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic fused ring system having a total of 9- or 10-ring atoms within said fused ring system.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein R_2 is a member selected from the group consisting of: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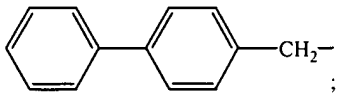
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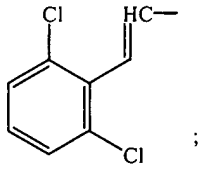
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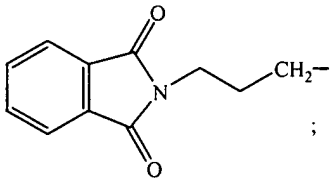
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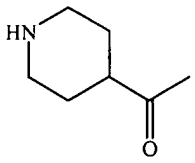
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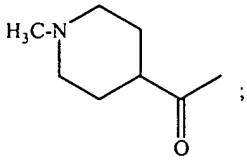
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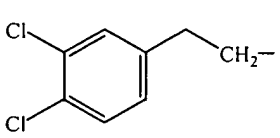
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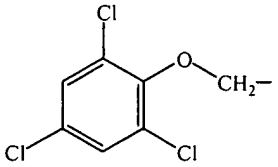
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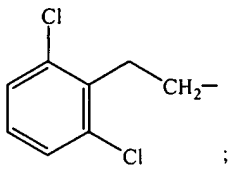
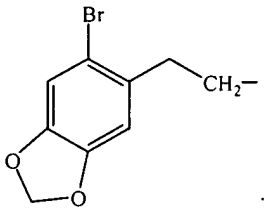
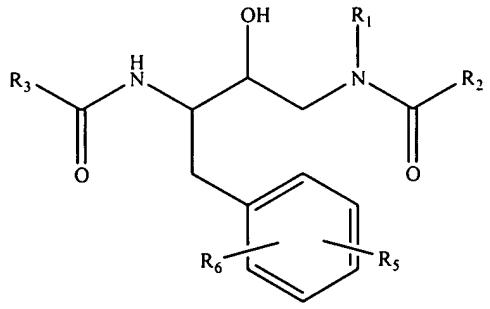

; and



19. (Amended) A method for modulating the processing of a tau-protein (τ-protein), said method comprising contacting a composition containing said τ-protein with an aspartyl protease inhibitor having the formula:



(I)

wherein:

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, heterocycles, substituted heterocycles, heterocyclicalkyl and substituted heterocyclicalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl and substituted aryloxyalkyl; or R_5 and R_6 and the carbons to which they are bound join to form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic fused ring system having a total of 9- or 10-ring atoms within said fused ring system.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein R_2 is a member selected from the group consisting of:

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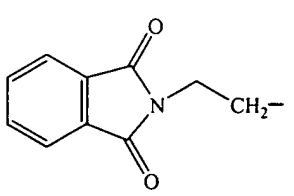
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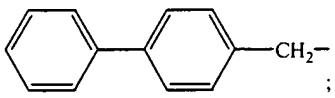
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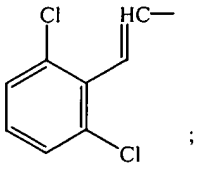
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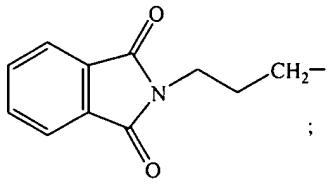
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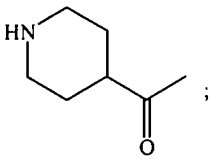
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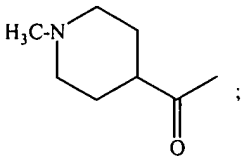
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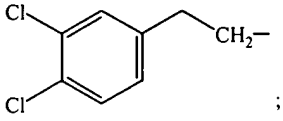
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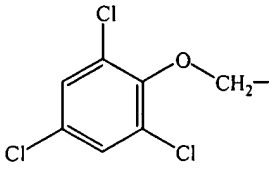
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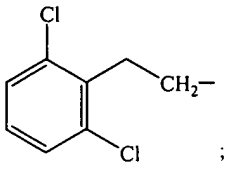
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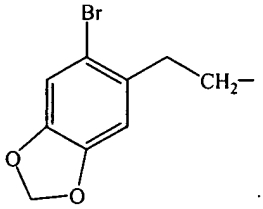
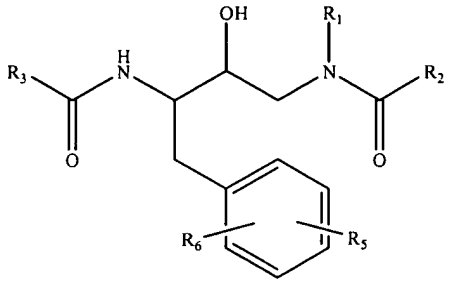


A6

36. (Amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative disorder, said method comprising: administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an aspartyl protease inhibitor having the formula:



(I)

wherein:

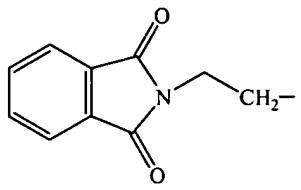
R_1, R_2 and R_3 are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, heterocycles, substituted heterocycles, heterocyclicalkyl and substituted heterocyclicalkyl; and

A6

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl and substituted aryloxyalkyl; or R_5 and R_6 and the carbons to which they are bound join to form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic fused ring system having a total of 9- or 10-ring atoms within said fused ring system; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. (Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein R_2 is a member selected from the group consisting of: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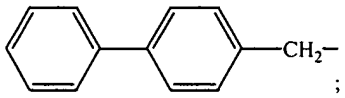
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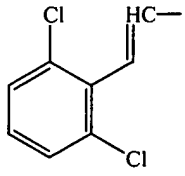
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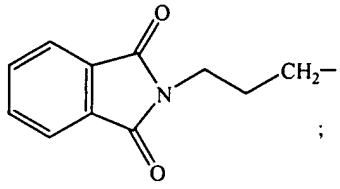
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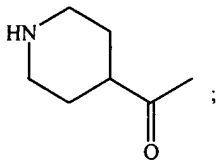
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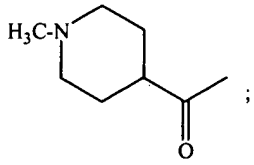
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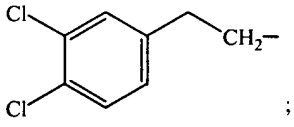
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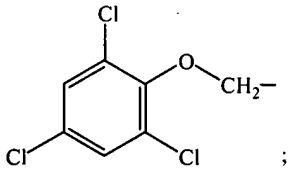
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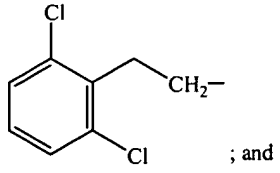
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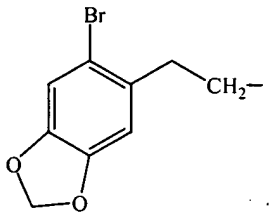

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims and Outstanding Rejections

Claims 1-50 are pending in the above-referenced patent application; claims 1-50 are currently under examination. In the Office Action, claims 1-16 and 18-50 have been rejected